

National Caregiver Assessment and Collection

Task: Development of a national systematic process to assess caregivers, code and capture workload and collect data on patient and caregiver outcomes that is useful to clinicians, administrators and policy makers)

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Recommendations for a systematic process to assess caregivers



- Care coordinator gains contact information and administers 4 item screen to caregiver on initial patient assessment
- GEC Tool may not be appropriate since it does not meet the needs of all Care Coordinated patients.
- 4 item screen would determine the need to move into more in-depth assessment
- Educate staff to refer potential to issues such as change in patient health to care coordinator for re-administration of the 4 item screen
- Recommend separate Database/Repository of all Caregivers

Issues

Revising conditions of participation – good time to make recommendations about what should be included for caregiver components

Points: Important issue is caregiver privacy completing screens

Different needs for different caregivers

NOTE: How do we protect the privacy of the caregiver?

Caregiver Screen

- Electronic preferred method
- Independent Caregiver Database that could have the ability to link to the computerized patient record system but maintain independent function for privacy issues (not part of patient record)
- Protects caregiver privacy and promotes honest responses
- Important to recognize caregiver rights not to respond to questions



Process



- Care Coordinator provides initial assessment that includes contact information for the caregiver and 4 item stress and burden screen
- High level screens would be referred to appropriate to appropriate social work staff, social work services or social work resource center for more in depth assessment and plan of care

Screening vs Assessment



Screening is to assess stress or burden,
not urgent situations

High score responses are referred on
within 7 working days to assigned,
Social Worker, Social Work Services
or a.....

The VA Caregiver Resource Center

Basic Data Set for initial screen

- Contact information/Relationship to patient Formal/Informal
- 4 item screening tool



In Depth Assessment

- Referred to social work or caregiver resource center or assessment includes:
- Level of Stress – Screening Tool
- Social support system of the caregiver – and other social responsibilities
- Coping style checklist
- Medical History (very basic)
- Relationship (Husband/Wife, Parent, Sibling, Neighbor, Son, Daughter)
- Living situation
- How many hours/week of caregiving



Time Intervals and Type of Assessment Tools

When to collect: During Event or part of the monthly note

- Technology Device (ID with separate pin)
- Messaging Devices – All vendors
- My HealtheVet – separate database accessible only by caregiver, used as a tool to administer risk screens, access support structure and resources (access in facility, public library, telephone based, care coordinator enters data)
- How often to collect? Monthly note
- 6 months/one year unless indicator of patient/caregiver problem then PRN



Coding and Workload

Not necessary to collect for initial basic data set

- Coding/workload would need to be captured at second level of assessment
- Needs further discussion

